(VIII, Ib or IIb of the Periodic Table, and stabilized by at least one water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids.)--

--22. (Once Amended) Colloids according to claim 21, which are monometal-oxide colloids having particle sizes ranging from 0.5 -5 nm, comprising a metal of groups VIb, VIIb, VIII, Ib or IIb of the Periodic Table, and stabilized by at least one water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids.--

--23. (Once Amended) Colloids according to claim 21, which are bimetal-oxide colloids or multimetal-oxide colloids having particle sizes ranging from 0.5 - 5 nm, comprising a plurality of metals of groups VIb, VIIb, VIII, Ib or IIb of the Periodic Table, and stabilized by at least one water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids.--

--24. (Once Amended) Colloids according to claim 21, which are bimetal-oxide colloids or multimetal-oxide colloids having particle sizes ranging from 0.5 - 5 nm, comprising a metal of the main group of the Periodic Table and one or more metals of groups VIb, VIIb, VIII, Ib or IIb of the Periodic Table, and stabilized by at least one water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids.--

--26. (Once Amended) Colloids according to claim 21, wherein said at least one water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids is selected from the group consisting

of amphiphilic betaines, cationic surfactants, anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, and water-soluble polymers.--

--27. (Once Amended) A process for preparing colloids according to claim 21, said process comprising hydrolyzing or condensing at least one metal salt in an aqueous solution comprising a base in the presence of a water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids.--

--28. (Once Amended) The process according to claim 27, which is for the preparation of monometal-oxide colloids, and comprises hydrolyzing or condensing a salt of a metal of groups VIb, VIIb, VIII, Ib or IIb of the Periodic Table in an aqueous solution comprising a base in the presence of a water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids.--

--29. (Once Amended) The process according to claim 27, which is for the preparation of bimetal-oxide colloids or multi-metal oxide colloids, and comprises hydrolyzing or condensing salts of a plurality of metals of groups VIb, VIIb, VIII, Ib or IIb of the Periodic Table in an aqueous solution comprising a base in the presence of a water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids.--

--30. (Once Amended) The process according to claim 27, which is for the

preparation of bimetal-oxide colloids, and comprises hydrolyzing or condensing a salt of a metal of the main group of the Periodic Table and a salt of a metal of groups VIb, VIIb, VIII, Ib or IIb of the Periodic Table in an aqueous solution comprising a base in the presence of a water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids.--

B2 (cancel)

--32. (Once Amended) The process according to claim 27, wherein the water-soluble additive capable of stabilizing said colloids is selected from the group consisting of amphiphilic betaines, cationic surfactants, anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, and water-soluble polymers.--

B3

--39. (Once Amended) The process according to claim 38, which is conducted in the presence of a reduction agent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hypophosphite and formate.--

B4

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-